

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A clasping tool for controlling an elongate tubular member comprising:
 - a first tip constructed to support and limit lateral movement of said tubular member relative to said first tip, and to permit longitudinal movement of said tubular member relative to said first tip; and
 - a second tip constructed to retain said tubular member between said first and second tips when said first and second tips are brought together.
2. The tool of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is an electrode carrier member.
3. The tool of claim 2, wherein said electrode carrier member is connected to a stimulating unit of a prosthetic hearing implant device.
4. The tool of claim 1, wherein said first and second tips are connected to a first movable arm and second movable arm, respectively, which are joined at an end opposing said first and second tips, wherein application of a compressive force to said first and second movable arms to cause said first and second tips to be brought together.
5. The tool of claim 4, wherein said first and second tips are offset from a longitudinal axis formed by said first and second movable arms by an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees.
6. The tool of claim 5, wherein said offset angle is approximately 18° degrees.
7. The tool of claim 1, wherein said first tip has a half-tube region having a pair of opposing sides that extend toward said second tip.
8. The tool of claim 7, wherein said half-tube region has a thickness of approximately 0.1mm.
9. The tool of claim 7, wherein said half-tube region has an aperture.

10. The tool of claim 1, wherein said first tip has a forked region.
11. The tool of claim 10, wherein said forked region has a pair of forked elements that are curved away from said second tip at the end of said forked region.
12. The tool of claim 1, wherein said first tip has a looped region having two fork elements and an aperture.
13. The tool of claim 12, wherein said looped region has a closed end that is curved away from said second tip.
14. The tool of claim 1, wherein said second tip has a substantially flat region facing toward said first tip.
15. The tool of claim 14, wherein said substantially flat region extends slightly wider than the width of said first tip and contacts said first tip when said first and second tips are brought together.
16. The tool of claim 14, wherein said substantially flat region extends slightly narrower than the width of said first tip and contacts said tubular member when said first and second tips are brought together.
17. The tool of claim 1, wherein said first and second tips have the same region.
18. The tool of claim 1, wherein said first and second tips have a substantially V-shaped region that forms a holding region for said tubular member when said first and second tips are brought together.
19. A clasping tool for controlling an elongate tubular member comprising:
 - a first tip means for supporting and limiting lateral movement of said tubular member relative to said first tip means, while permitting longitudinal movement of said tubular member relative to said first tip means; and
 - a second tip means for retaining said tubular member between said first and second means tips when said first and second means tips are brought together.